

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01511 101655Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /065 W
----- 073588

R 101444Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1255

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1511

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT,BB

SUBJ: DATE OF GENERAL ELECTION SET

1. YESTERDAY, AS ONE OF HIS LAST OFFICIAL ACTS, THE LATE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF BARBADOS, SIR WINSTON SCOTT, ISSUED A PROCLAMATION DISSOLVING PARLIAMENT, AS WELL AS WRITS FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY. SEPTEMBER 2 HAS BEEN FIXED AS THE DATE OF THE GENERAL ELECTION. ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY AUGUST 18.

2. COMMENT: BOTH THE DEMOCRATIC LABOR PARTY (DLP), WHICH HAS GOVERNED BARBADOS SINCE 1961, AND THE MAJOR OPPOSITION GROUP, THE BARBADOS LABOR PARTY (BLP), HAVE ALREADY NAMED THEIR CANDIDATES FOR THE 24 CONSTITUENCIES. IN ADDITION TO THESE TWO PARTIES, THE PEOPLE'S POLITICAL ALLIANCE, A GROUP FORMED EARLY THIS YEAR THROUGH A MERGER OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT AND PEOPLE'S PRESSURE GROUP, WILL CONTEST THE ELECTION IN AT LEAST SOME CONSTITUENCIES. THE PEOPLE'S PRESSURE MOVEMENT IS ALSO EXPECTED TO FIELD A LIMITED NUMBER OF CANDIDATES; MRS. GERTRUDE EASTMAN,WHO
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BRIDGE 01511 101655Z

LEFT THE DLP IN MID-MARCH, HAS ANNOUNCED HER INTENTION OF

RUNNING AS AN INDEPENDENT; AND THERE MAY BE OTHER INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES.

3. THE ACTIVITIES OF THIRD PARTIES AND INDEPENDENTS
NOTWITHSTANDING, THE ELECTION IS EXPECTED TO BE ESSENTIALLY A CONTEST BETWEEN THE DLP AND BLP. THE LATTER PARTY, HAVING WON TWO SUCCESSIVE BY-ELECTIONS THIS YEAR AND SEEN THE GOVERNMENT'S MAJORITY FURTHER REDUCED BY MRS. EASTMOND'S DEFECTION, IS FULL OF OPTIMISM. NOR IS ITS OPTIMISM UNJUSTIFIED. PREIME MINISTER BARROW AND THE DLP ARE DEFINITELY ON THE DEFENSIVE. AS RECENTLY AS JULY 30, WHEN THE PRIMIN DELIVERED A JEJUNE BUDGET MESSAGE IN THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AND LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION J.M.G. ("TOM") ADAMS REPLIED WITH A HARD-HITTING POLITICAL SPEECH (REF BRIDGETOWN 1467), THE GOVT'S PROSPECTS SUFFERED A CLEAR SETBACK. COMMENTING ON THE BUDGET MESSAGE IN THE BARBADIAN WEEKLY, THE NATION, EDITOR HAROLD HOYTE HEADED HIS REMARKS "YOU'RE SLIPPING, SKIPPER, AND NO ONE'S TELLING YOU"-- A SENTIMENT THAT IS WIDELY SHARED, AND WITH WHICH WE CONCUR. IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO PREDICT THE OUTCOME OF THE ELECTION, BUT THE PERIOD BETWEEN NOW AND THE POLLING IS SHORT, AND THE WEEK OF OFFICIAL MOURNING FOR THE DEATH OF SIR WINSTON, WHICH HAS JUST BEGUN, REDUCES THE TIME AVAILABLE FOR CAMPAIGNING. IT WILL BE SURPRISING IF THE DLP IS ABLE TO IMPROVE ITS POSITION SUBSTANTIALLY IN THAT BRIEF PERIOD, AND, AS OF NOW, ITS CHANCES OF REMAINING IN POWER LOOK TO BE LESS THAN 50-50.
SIMMS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRIDGE01511
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760307-0952
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760870/aaaacjq.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DATE OF GENERAL ELECTION SET
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BB, DLP, BLP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006